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From: Perez, Jerome
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First article is a follow-up to the one I sent yesterday. JP

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Morning Consult** <reply@e.morningconsult.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:14 AM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy, Presented by ExxonMobil: Interior to Review Dozens of Monuments, Starting with Bears Ears
To: jperez@blm.gov

By [Jack Fitzpatrick](#) and [Julia Gheorghiu](#)

Washington Brief

- President Donald Trump will sign an executive order today calling on the Department of the Interior to review national monuments created since 1996, starting with controversial Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. ([E&E News](#))
- The National Mining Association's board of directors voted to urge Trump to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, after meeting with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, who opposed the accord. ([Politico](#))
- Energy Secretary Rick Perry said the U.S. should stay in the Paris climate agreement but "renegotiate" the country's commitments. ([Bloomberg News](#))

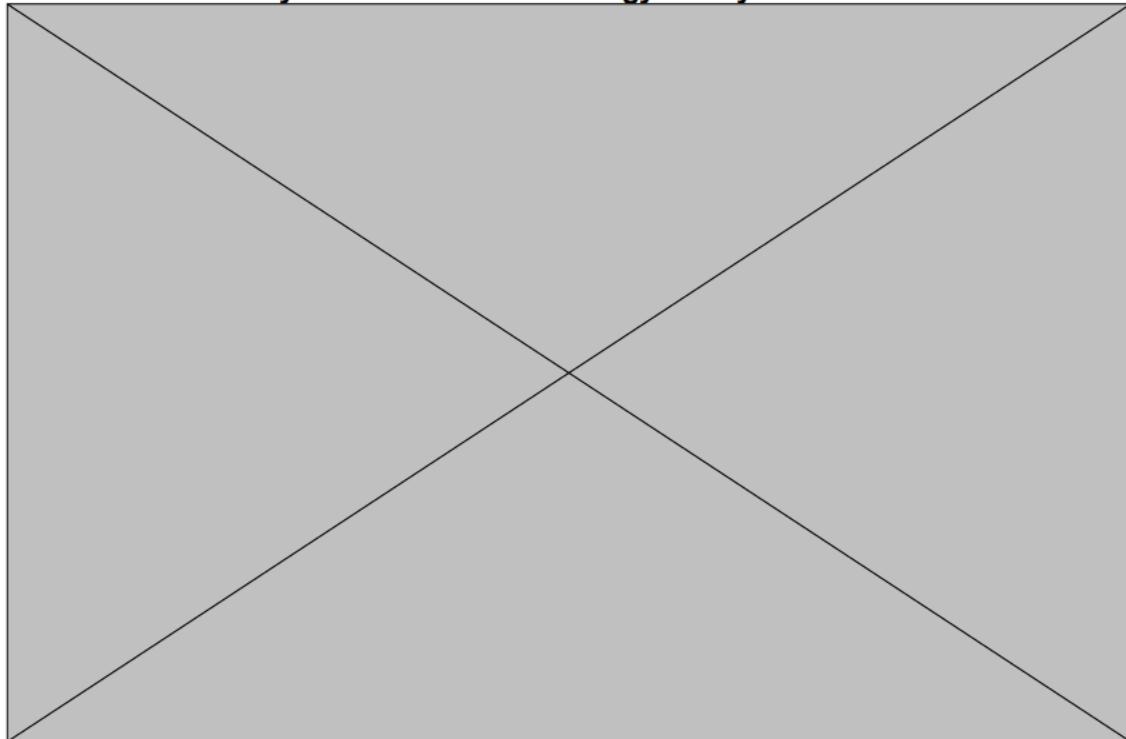
Business Brief

- The American Petroleum Institute is urging lawmakers in Ohio and Pennsylvania not to create subsidies for nuclear power. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))
- China will increase its wind power capacity by 65 percent over the next year, the highest rate in the world, according to the Global Wind Energy Council. ([Reuters](#))
- The Department of Energy approved the Golden Pass liquefied natural gas export terminal in Texas, a project that could lead to 45,000 direct and indirect jobs in the next five years, according to the agency. ([Washington Examiner](#))

Chart Review

Can Coal Make a Comeback?

Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy



Events Calendar (All Times Local)**Wednesday**

<u>SEPA Utility Conference in Tucson, Ariz.</u>	7:30 a.m.
<u>IEEE Conference on Innovative Smart Grid Technologies</u>	8:30 a.m.
<u>House Science Committee hearing on advances in the search for life</u>	10 a.m.
<u>House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on reforming infrastructure safety regulations</u>	10 a.m.
<u>House Energy & Commerce subcommittee hearing on nuclear waste storage</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on free enterprise in space</u>	10 a.m.
<u>WCEE Happy Hour</u>	5:30 p.m.

Thursday

<u>SEPA Utility Conference in Tucson, Ariz.</u>	8:30 a.m.
<u>House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on recovering from natural disasters</u>	10 a.m.
<u>House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on outdoor recreation</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on WOTUS</u>	10 a.m.
<u>USEA discussion on electricity distribution markets</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Sens. Bernie Sanders and Jeff Merkley discuss "100% Clean</u>	10:15 a.m.

<u>Energy Bill"</u>	
<u>Environmental Law Institute discussion on regulatory reform</u>	12 p.m.
<u>ITIF events on clean-energy politics</u>	1:30 p.m.
Friday	
<u>SEPA Utility Conference in Tucson, Ariz.</u>	8:30 a.m.
<u>Johns Hopkins discussion on enhanced oil recovery</u>	12 p.m.

A Message from ExxonMobil:

Natural gas is fueling a resurgence in American manufacturing. We're playing our part. Our new projects along the Gulf Coast are expected to create more than 45,000 jobs here in the United States. Learn more at ExxonMobil.com.

General

Trump order to aim first at Bears Ears Corbin Hiar, E&E News

President Trump tomorrow will sign an executive order calling for a review of the Antiquities Act and dozens of national monuments that were created by his predecessors in the past two decades, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said tonight at a White House briefing. The review, to be led by Zinke, will span from the 1.9 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument established in southern Utah by President Clinton in 1996 to the 1.35 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument created by President Obama over the opposition of the Beehive State's congressional delegation late last year.

Mining group to support pulling out of Paris after meeting with Pruitt Andrew Restuccia, Politico

A coal mining industry group's board of directors voted on Tuesday to press President Donald Trump to withdraw from the Paris climate change agreement - just one day after EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met with the group's leadership to discuss the accord, two sources told POLITICO. Pruitt personally attended a meeting of the National Mining Association's executive committee on Monday to lay out his concerns with the Paris accord.

Perry Says Trump Should Keep Paris Climate Deal and Renegotiate Joe Ryan, Bloomberg News

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry said the U.S. should renegotiate the Paris accord on climate change instead of abandoning it, criticizing Germany for allowing its fossil-fuel emissions to rise. "I'm not going to tell the president of the United States to walk away from Paris accord," Perry said at the Bloomberg New Energy Finance conference in New York on Tuesday.

Dem: Pruitt violating anti-campaigning law with GOP fundraiser
Timothy Cama, The Hill

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief Scott Pruitt is violating a federal anti-campaigning law with an upcoming Republican fundraiser, a Senate Democrat says. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) sent a letter Tuesday to Carolyn Lerner, the head of the Office of Special Counsel, seeking an investigation into Pruitt's plan to be the keynote speaker at an Oklahoma Republican Party gala next week.

Both Parties United on Permanent Fix for Coal Miners' Health Care
Iulia Gheorghiu, Morning Consult

Despite discord on everything from Mexican border wall funding to health care reform, Senate leaders agree on one priority for the bill to keep the government open: health care for coal miners. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) told reporters the Republican Party hopes to reach an agreement on the issue in the next few days, working on a "permanent fix for miner's health care" in the final packet, rather than a short-term extension.

Trump's plan to kill Energy Star could benefit his properties
Ciara Bri'd Frisbie and Alice Kantor, CNN

Energy Star is best known for labels that tell you how much you'll pay on your utility bill if you buy a new refrigerator or television. But it also has ratings for hotels, condominiums and office buildings. Trump's properties tend to receive low Energy Star ratings.

Zinke Vows to Make Interior 'the Happy Department'
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said he hopes to improve employee morale and foster a more welcoming image for federal lands, suggesting it's probably not necessary to arm officials who work on remote tortoise refuges. Speaking at an Outdoor Industry Association event Tuesday, Zinke said the department's employees sometimes appear "too heavy-handed" in the name of law enforcement on public lands.

Manufacturers prod White House to leave Paris climate deal
John Siciliano, Washington Examiner

Failure to withdraw from the Paris climate change agreement would hurt American industry and upset President Trump's economic goals, an industry group argued in

a letter and detailed analysis sent to the White House. The Industrial Energy Consumers of America, representing large manufacturing companies on energy policy issues, sent the analysis to the White House late Monday.

House 'science nerd' seeks to correct the record
Hannah Hess, E&E News

Rep. Don Beyer proudly claims the title of "science nerd," though he admits he lacks the specific technical knowledge to correct misleading scientific statements at a recent House Science, Space and Technology Committee hearing on climate science. That's why, expressing concern about a flurry of inaccuracies, the Northern Virginia Democrat recently launched a project to make it easier for those with expertise to set things straight.

Dollar Climbs With Bonds as Trump Tax Plan in Play
V Ramakrishnan and Sid Verma, Bloomberg News

The dollar climbed with U.S. government bonds before President Donald Trump unveils his tax cut plan that could breathe new life into flagging reflation trades. The greenback wrested back some strength in early business hours on the continent, gaining against most group-of-10 currencies.

Oil and Natural Gas

Rick Perry approves first natural gas export project as secretary
John Siciliano, Washington Examiner

Energy Secretary Rick Perry on Tuesday approved the first permit under his tenure to ship natural gas to overseas markets, even as large U.S. manufacturers are warning the Trump administration that those exports could lead to skyrocketing energy prices in America. "This announcement is another example of President Trump's leadership in making the United States an energy dominant force," Perry said in approving the Golden Pass export terminal in Texas for shipping liquefied natural gas abroad.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Albany Utility Board recommends rate increases
Carlton Fletcher, Albany Herald

The Albany Utility Board, after listening to city staff's case for across-the-board utility rate increases, voted 3-2 Tuesday morning at a special called meeting to recommend that the rates be approved by the Albany City Commission. The City Commission will consider the recommended proposal at its May 9 meeting.

Pawnee residents question power plant's environmental effects, financing
Tim Landis, State Journal-Register

Residents living near the site of a proposed natural-gas power plant south of Pawnee say more information is needed on noise, emissions, water use and financing before enterprise-zone tax breaks are extended to the site. About two dozen people, including city and county representatives, attended a public hearing Monday held at Express Employment Professionals in Springfield on an extension of enterprise-zone property and sales tax breaks project developer EmberClear Corp. of Houston says are crucial to the \$1 billion plant.

Renewables

Rising wind power growth to be led by China over next five years
Nina Chestney, Reuters

China will lead growth in global wind power capacity of almost 65 percent over the next five years, with other Asian countries also developing more renewable energy, the Global Wind Energy Council said on Tuesday. Cumulative wind energy capacity was 487 gigawatts (GW) at the end of 2016, a 12.6 percent rise from the year before and should grow by almost 65 percent to 800 GW by the end of 2021, the GWEC said in its annual report on the industry.

Taxes No Longer Certain - And That's Affecting Solar Deals
Brian Eckhouse, Bloomberg News

Even without any specific tax-reform proposals, President Donald Trump's pledge to revamp U.S. policies is already affecting the solar industry, and not in a good way. "It's causing disruptive effects on finance," Abigail Ross Hopper, president and chief executive officer of the Solar Energy Industries Association, said in an interview Monday at Bloomberg New Energy Finance's Future of Energy Global Summit in New York. "Costs are going up."

Biggest U.S. Companies Setting More Renewable-Energy Targets
Brian Eckhouse, Bloomberg News

Almost half of the biggest U.S. companies have established clean-energy targets for themselves, according to a report Tuesday from sustainable investors and environmental groups including the World Wildlife Fund. It's not just the biggest U.S. companies - 44 percent of the smallest 100 members of the Fortune 500 have also set goals, up from 25 percent in 2014, and 48 percent of the entire list.

Coal

Obama's Energy Secretary Hopes to Aid Trump's "Forgotten" Man
Jason Plautz and Alex Rogers, National Journal

Ernest Moniz, who served as Energy secretary under President Obama, thinks he can help President Trump's "forgotten" Americans better than Trump himself can. In his inaugural address, Trump made it a priority to address the "forgotten men and women of our country," putting miners back to work and reviving coal country.

Beijing will boost coal stockpiles ahead of summer -state planner
Meng Meng and Josephine Mason, Reuters

Beijing will boost thermal coal supplies to ensure prices return to a "reasonable" level and raise inventories in preparation for higher summer demand, the government said on Tuesday amid concerns about deepening losses at the nation's utilities. The statement comes after a meeting between the country's state economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and utilities on April 14.

Caterpillar lifts forecasts on signs of global mining recovery
Patti Waldmeir, Financial Times

Caterpillar shares rose more than 6 per cent on Tuesday after the US big equipment maker raised its forecast for 2017 sales and revenues because of what it said were signs of recovery in the global mining industry, and in China. After years of weak demand for its yellow machines, a staple of construction sites and mines around the world, Caterpillar reported stronger than expected first-quarter sales of \$9.8bn, up from \$9.5bn in the year earlier quarter ended March 31.

German coal-fired power plant profitability hits 2017-high as coal dips, euro gains
Platts

Profit margins for coal-fired power plants to produce electricity for delivery in Germany next year have rebounded and reached their highest level this year, S&P Global Platts data showed. The German year-ahead clean dark spread (CDS) for a 35% efficient coal plant rebounded to Eur0.28/MWh by Monday's market close as coal prices eased slightly, while the stronger euro after the French elections reduced dollar-nominated coal costs further for eurozone buyers.

Nuclear

Oil-Gas Lobby Opposes State Subsidies for Nuclear Power Producers
Russell Gold, The Wall Street Journal

Nuclear power plant operators that say they need state subsidies to keep

generating electricity have a new foe: oil and gas companies. The American Petroleum Institute, the Washington, D.C., lobbying powerhouse for U.S. oil and gas producers, has waded into local politics in Pennsylvania and Ohio to urge lawmakers not to create special payments.

U.S. lawmakers push Yucca nuclear dump facing transport crunch
Timothy Gardner, Reuters

Lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives will debate legislation on Wednesday to breathe life into the stalled Yucca Mountain spent nuclear fuel dump in Nevada, but critics say the project is hindered by the lack of an easy transport route. Representative John Shimkus has proposed draft legislation to restart the licensing of Yucca Mountain, pending since Ronald Reagan was president, and on which the government has already spent billions of dollars for initial construction and design.

South Africa Nuclear Plans Stalled as Court Rules Process Unlawful
Paul Vecchiatto, Bloomberg News

South Africa hasn't complied with the constitution in seeking bidders for a nuclear-energy program and must cancel any deals that have already been signed, the Western Cape High Court ruled. The government must hold public hearings and debate the estimated 1 trillion-rand (\$76 billion) program in Parliament, according to a ruling read out on Wednesday by Judge Lee Bozalek in a case brought by civil-society groups Earthlife Africa and the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute.

Poland Looks to Nuclear in Bid to Keep Its Coal Plants Humming
Maciej Martewicz, Bloomberg News

Poland hopes a nuclear power station may allow it to continue using the European Union's biggest coal deposits to fuel the bloc's biggest eastern economy. The country, which gets more than 80 percent of its electricity from coal, may use a pledge to build its first nuclear power plant as a bargaining chip in key talks with the EU on planned climate regulations under the so-called winter package.

Climate

Dems introduce bill to create climate change bond program
Devin Henry, The Hill

Congressional Democrats have reintroduced a bill to create a climate change adaptation fund supported by a new federal bond program. The bill, from Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Rep. Ted Deutch (D-Fla.) would create a Commerce Department fund that states and cities could tap to finance projects preparing their areas for the impacts of climate change.

How Climate Evangelists Are Taking Over Your Local Weather Forecast
Eric Roston, Bloomberg News

Amber Sullins gets a minute or two to tell up to two million people about some extremely complicated science, using the tools of her trade: a pleasant voice, a green screen, and small icons denoting sun, clouds, rain, and wind. She is the chief meteorologist at ABC15 News in Phoenix, so her forecasts mostly call for sunshine. Within this brief window, however, Sullins sometimes manages to go beyond the next five days.

Global warming is sharply raising risk of 'unprecedented' climate events
Andrew Freedman, Mashable

Around the world, global warming is making unprecedented weather and climate events far more likely to occur, with the planet now teetering on the edge of a new era of routinely damaging global warming-related extremes, a new study found. The study, published Monday in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, found that in addition to making extreme events more likely across broad swaths of the globe, climate change is also making such events more severe.

Climate Denial in Schools
Emmalina Glinskis, Vice News

Legislation proposed across the country since Donald Trump's election threatens to bring climate change denial into the classroom under the guise of "academic freedom." Currently, six states have legislative measures pending or already on the books that would allow anti-science rhetoric, including the rejection of global warming, to seep its way into schools' curricula.

As Rising Seas Erode Shorelines, Tasmania Shows What Can Be Lost
Justin Gillis, The New York Times

Maybe the hardened convicts who carved the 19th-century gravestones dotting this tiny island were barely literate, or perhaps one of them just had a wicked sense of humor. The schoolmaster Benjamin Horne went to his repose in 1843 with this sentence chiseled above his head: "Sincerely regretted by all who knew him." If he ever managed to sleep peacefully beneath that pungent epitaph, Mr. Horne can rest no longer. The very island on which he lies is being chewed away by the sea.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Venezuela's Complicated Crisis For Oil
Liam Denning, Bloomberg Gadfly

The cold logic of the oil market dictates that crisis usually equals profit. That's because a crisis in oil usually means a supply crisis, as some large producing country becomes embroiled in war or civil unrest or sanctions or some other geopolitical mess.

A Message from ExxonMobil:

Energy is fundamental to modern life and drives economic prosperity - in small communities across America and around the world. We need a range of solutions to meet growing energy demand while reducing emissions to address the risk of climate change. Visit the Energy Factor to learn more about some of the bold ideas and next-generation technologies we're working on to meet this challenge: EnergyFactor.com

Research Reports

Can Coal Make a Comeback?

Trevor Houser et al., Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy

An accurate prognosis of future US coal production and employment requires a careful diagnosis of the causes of the recent collapse. On the campaign trail, Donald Trump attributed the decline to a "war on coal" waged by the Obama administration via environmental regulation.

Global temperature evolution: recent trends and some pitfalls

Stefan Rhamstorf et al., Environmental Research Letters

Global surface temperatures continue to rise. In most surface temperature data sets, the years 2014, 2015 and again 2016 set new global heat records since the start of regular measurements.

State of Antarctic Penguins 2017

Oceanites

Looking ahead, a number of developments deserve attention, which we'll follow in future State of Antarctic Penguins reports. Ultimately, all relate to climate. One is that warming in the Antarctic Peninsula appears to have slowed, consistent with natural variability

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